



Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey
International Association of Fire Fighters AFL-CIO-CLC



DOMINICK MARINO
President

April 3, 2013

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 11-49

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I write to you on behalf of the Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey (PFANJ), which represents the interests of more than 3,500 of New Jersey's 6,000 professional firefighters and more than 500 emergency medical service (EMS) professionals. PFANJ's mission includes pursuing a better quality of life for our members through legislative initiatives and to educate the public regarding the dangers experienced by firefighters in serving and protecting the public.

PFANJ wishes to express its strong support for the development of next-generation indoor location technologies that can bring advanced capabilities and greater safety benefits to consumer mobile devices as well as first responder equipment. PFANJ understands that Progeny LMS, LLC and its parent company, NextNav Holdings, LLC (Progeny/NextNav) have developed and are deploying one such technology, and are currently seeking authority from the Commission to begin offering service. PFANJ encourages the Commission to grant this request in order to make this promising new technology available to first responders and to the public as soon as possible.

In fire, public safety, and medical emergencies, time is of the essence. The availability of accurate caller location information to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) speeds dispatch, saving lives and property. Unfortunately, this information is not always available. Cell phone calls from indoors and in urban canyons are often unable to report accurate information in a timely manner, if at all. Large institutional buildings and multistory structures can also delay the arrival of assistance when emergency responders cannot locate victims accurately.

Accurate location information can also help keep first responders safe. Firefighters operating in large structures and multistory buildings face significant dangers. Data compiled by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has shown that firefighters that have become trapped and disoriented represent the largest portion of first responder fatalities in structure fires. Room to room searches to locate a downed firefighter jeopardize the safety of both the firefighter in need of assistance and those engaged in the search. PFANJ and its members believe that a fundamental step toward protecting the public is protecting the firefighters and EMS professionals who answer the call for help. PFANJ also believes that any technology that can

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24 W. Lafayette Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 * (O) 609-396-9766 * (F) 609-396-0891 * E-mail: dmarino@pfanj.org

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provide the capability to both rapidly locate victims and fallen rescuers, with precise horizontal and vertical accuracy, indoors and out, can only improve first responder performance, safety and outcomes.

We understand that the FCC's Communications Security Reliability and Interoperability Council, Working Group 3 recently tested several indoor positioning technologies. Reportedly, the test results show that these systems were able to significantly improve upon the accuracy of current systems, providing information precise enough to identify the building and floor location of a caller in need of assistance. Such precise location capabilities, if incorporated into firefighter equipment, would be equally valuable to incident commanders seeking to maintain situational awareness and personnel management.

The PFANJ urges the Commission to work quickly on this issue to ensure that technologies that can provide advanced indoor positioning capabilities, such as the Progeny/NextNav network, are made available to first responders and to the public without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dom Marino", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Dominick Marino
President
Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey.

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